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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #15, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

April 15, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated April 2, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In an April 2 U.N. report, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon highlighted recent progress in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including ongoing efforts to disband armed groups causing insecurity in eastern DRC and integrate factions into the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC). However, the U.N. Secretary-General cautioned that the situation remains tenuous and continues to require international involvement.
- The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has noted an increase in targeted attacks in recent months against humanitarian staff, significantly hindering the provision of emergency relief commodities to conflict-affected populations. Since January 1, a total of 34 incidents have occurred, including 5 attacks between April 1 and 6.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
North Kivu IDPs¹ since August 2008	300,000	OCHA – January 2009
Total North Kivu IDPs	841,648	UNHCR ² – March 2009
Orientale IDPs since September 2008	207,000	OCHA – April 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	340,000	UNHCR – December 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$14,026,517
USAID/FFP³ Assistance to DRC	\$51,455,600
State/PRM⁴ Assistance to DRC	\$18,148,622
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC	\$83,630,739

CURRENT SITUATION

- On April 1, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that the continuing absence of salaries for FARDC soldiers and rapid integration of armed groups into the FARDC have contributed to increased FARDC violence against civilian populations and humanitarian staff. In addition, OCHA notes an escalation in Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) attacks against civilians following the conclusion of joint FARDC–Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) operations to disband the FDLR on February 25, particularly in southern Lubero and Walikale territories.
- U.N. officials continue to highlight the need for increased U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) presence to provide security and facilitate the delivery of emergency relief commodities in areas of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces. Despite a November 20 agreement stipulating an increase in MONUC forces from 17,000 to 20,000 soldiers, additional forces had not deployed as of April 15 due to difficulty securing additional troops, according to international media reports.
- According to U.N. reports, simultaneous displacement and returns continue in North Kivu Province. On April 8, OCHA reported that violence resulting from joint FARDC–RDF operations to disband FDLR forces, as well as fear of FDLR reprisal attacks had displaced approximately 250,000 people in North Kivu Province since January 20. However, improved security in other areas of North Kivu Province resulted in the return of approximately 300,000 individuals to areas of origin.

Population Displacement and Security in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

- According to OCHA, FDLR attacks and population fears of potential clashes between the FDLR and recently deployed FARDC forces to South Kivu Province in preparation for a joint FARDC–MONUC offensive planned

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

against the FDLR have contributed to ongoing insecurity and population displacement. Between January 25 and March 14, FDLR movement into Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province, prompted the displacement of approximately 10,000 people, according to OCHA. In addition, during the week of March 30, MONUC reported restricted civilian mobility and humanitarian access in Shabunda Territory, South Kivu Province, as a result of FDLR movement in the area.

- Between March 30 and 31, USAID/OFDA staff and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners travelled to Chambucha and Hombo North towns, Walikale Territory, North Kivu Province, and South Hombo town, Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province, to assess population movement and humanitarian conditions. According to USAID/OFDA staff, clashes between FDLR and FARDC soldiers and additional deployment of recently integrated FARDC troops have displaced nearly 22,000 people from Hombo North. Based on the assessment, USAID/OFDA staff identified improved health response capacity and food aid as priority assistance needs.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2.9 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities in North Kivu Province, including health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

Humanitarian Conditions in Orientale Province

- Decreased Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) presence and increased FARDC and MONUC patrols in some areas of Orientale Province have encouraged limited returns to areas of origin, according to OCHA. However, small-scale attacks in remote areas continue to cause new population displacement within Orientale Province and to surrounding areas, as well as prevent widespread returns.
- On April 8, OCHA cited NGO-compiled statistics indicating that approximately 207,000 people remained displaced in Orientale Province, while 9,300 individuals and 30,000 people had returned to Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, respectively. In addition, UNHCR reported that unrelated armed group violence between Popular Front for Justice in the Congo (FPJC) and the Revolutionary Front for Peace in the Ituri (FPRI) displaced approximately 30,000 individuals in Ituri District between March 31 and April 2.
- On April 6, OCHA reported that MONUC continues to develop three bases designed to facilitate increased MONUC escorts and humanitarian presence in areas surrounding Dungu, Duru, and Faradje towns.
- On April 14, USAID/OFDA approved more than \$470,000 for Samaritan's Purse for the distribution of emergency relief commodities to 30,000 conflict-affected IDPs in Orientale Province.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in DRC.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$14 million in humanitarian assistance to DRC, primarily targeting beneficiaries in North Kivu and Orientale provinces, as well as in South Kivu Province. USAID/OFDA is supporting nutrition, health, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, protection, and WASH programs, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support. In addition to the USAID/DART that operated from October 31 to March 6, USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in DRC.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$51.4 million to meet the emergency food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC. USAID/FFP assistance includes the provision of 33,820 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support.
- To date in FY 2009, State/PRM has provided more than \$18.1 million in humanitarian assistance to beneficiaries in DRC. State/PRM assistance includes \$4.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and \$4 million to UNHCR for conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC, as well as more than \$9.6 million to UNHCR and NGO partners for repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning Congolese refugees and host communities.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
German Agro Action (GAA)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
Handicap International	Economy and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,882,567

Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$1,019,750
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$670,782
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$14,026,517
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	33,820 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$51,455,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$51,455,600
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination, and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration and Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$18,148,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$65,482,117
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$83,630,739

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 15, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the DRC may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int